Amphotericin B

am-foe-TER-i-sin Bee

Brand Name: Amphocin, Fungizone, AmBisome, Ordoeleoettic Amfedioteend Other Drugs



Amphoteric B, also known as Fungizone or Amphocin, belongs to the class of medicines called antifungals. Fungi are organisms that can cause infection in humans. Antifungals kill fungi or stop them from multiplying. Fungal infections occur more often in patients with weakened immune systems, including people with HIV, than in people with healthy immune systems. Fungal infections may also be more severe in patients with weakened immune systems.

HIV/AIDS-Related Uses

Amphotericin B is approved by the FDA for the treatment of certain types of serious fungal infections. Amphotericin B is also used to prevent future fungal infections in HIV infected patients who have had serious fungal infections in the past.

Dosage Form/Administration

Amphotericin B comes in liquid form that is given by injection into the vein (IV), usually under the supervision of a doctor or nurse.

Contraindications

Individuals who have kidney disease or are receiving chemotherapy or radiation treatment should tell a doctor before taking this medicine.

Possible Side Effects

Most patients taking amphotericin B will experience unwanted effects. The two most common side effects are a bad reaction when the drug is given and kidney problems.

When amphotericin B IV is given, patients may experience fever, shaking chills, low blood pressure, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, headache, and difficulty breathing. This generally occurs within 1 to 3 hours of receiving amphotericin. Rarely, amphotericin B is associated with a more serious allergic reaction.

Kidney problems are a common side effect in patients taking amphotericin B. Generally, kidney function returns to normal after patients stop taking amphotericin. However, patients may need to stop taking amphotericin B and switch to another drug because of kidney damage. Other forms of amphotericin B have been developed that do not damage the kidney as much as traditional amphotericin B. These forms are sold under the

names AmBisome, Abelcet, and Amphotec. Patients who cannot take traditional amphotericin B may be able to take one of these other forms.

Amphotericin B may also cause wheezing or trouble breathing; tightness in the chest; skin rash; itching; irregular heartbeat; muscle cramps or pain; pain at the site of injection; sore throat; unusual tiredness or weakness; unusual bleeding or bruising; numbness, tingling, pain, or weakness in hands or feet; hearing loss or ringing in the ears; and blurred or double vision.

Individuals should tell a doctor if they have symptoms of any of these side effects. Individuals taking this medicine should ask a doctor about medicines that may be taken to lessen these side effects.

Drug and Food Interactions

A doctor should be notified of any other medications being taken, including prescription, nonprescription (over-the-counter), or herbal medications.

Clinical Trials

For information on clinical trials that involve Amphotericin B, visit the ClinicalTrials.gov web site at http://www.clinicaltrials.gov. In the Search box, enter: Amphotericin B AND HIV Infections.

Manufacturer Information

Abelecet Enzon, Inc. 20 Kingsbridge Road Piscataway, NJ 08854-3969 (908) 541-8600

Amphotericin B



Manufacturer Information (cont.)

AmBisome
Fujisawa Healthcare Inc
Parkway Center North / 3 Parkway North
Deerfield, IL 60015-2548
(800) 727-7003

Amphotericin B Bristol - Myers Squibb Co PO Box 4500 Princeton, NJ 08543-4500 (800) 321-1335

Fungizone Bristol - Myers Squibb Co PO Box 4500 Princeton, NJ 08543-4500 (800) 321-1335

Amphocin Pfizer Inc 235 East 42nd Street New York, NY 10017-5755 (800) 438-1985

Amphotec Oryx Pharmaceuticals Inc. 6500 Kitimat Road Mississauga, Ontario, Canada

For More Information

Contact your doctor or an AIDSinfo Health Information Specialist:

- Via Phone: 1-800-448-0440 Monday Friday, 12:00 p.m. (Noon) 5:00 p.m. ET
- Via Live Help: http://aidsinfo.nih.gov/live_help Monday - Friday, 12:00 p.m. (Noon) - 4:00 p.m. ET